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Area Group Sues Over U.S. Shift Of Unit to Reston

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A Washington area citizens group yesterday asked a federal court to block construction of the proposed \$41 million Geological Survey headquarters in Reston until the government makes a "firm and detailed commitment" to provide low and moderate-income housing there for survey employees.

A spokesman for Gulf-Reston, Inc., developers of Reston and the proposed headquarters complex, said a "very active program" to provide the housing has already begun.

The General Services Administration, which would actually lease the facility, declined to comment on the suit, brought by the Metropolitan Washington Planning and Housing Association.

The suit is the latest of efforts by open housing groups to force the federal government to require low- and moderate-income housing in the suburbs when agencies are moved there from the District.

It seeks a temporary restraining order prohibiting the GSA from approving a construction contract between Gulf-Reston and the actual builders of the Geological Survey headquarters. The suit marks the first time a citizens group has sought to intervene before the GSA has actually

signed or approved contracts.

"The government must not be permitted, once again, to bind itself to a federal agency relocation without a firm commitment which would result in the actual production of housing units available to low and moderate income government employees," lawyers for MWPHA said in papers filed with the U.S. District Court here yesterday.

The Gulf-Reston spokesman said construction bids on the Geological Survey project have been received and that the contract is scheduled to be signed "in several weeks."

Developers of Reston have sought the Geological Survey, the government's map-makers, for more than five years to serve as a showcase for the new town's 1,000-acre industrial park. The headquarters complex would bring together in one place the Survey's 2,800 employees, who now work in 17 different locations. About 900 of the employees earn less than \$10,000 annually.

The Gulf-Reston spokesman said the Geological Survey has already begun preparing questionnaires to determine employee housing needs.

Robert L. Kunzlig, GSA administrator, has said that Gulf-Reston, when it gave 50 acres of land in Fairfax County to the government for the head-

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